



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2008**

**Grade 6
Reading**

Reading

❶ An **antonym** for the word shield is

- A. flee.
- B. join.
- C. uncover.
- D. revolve.

Use the definitions below to answer the question.

apply v **1.** to bring into action **2.** to have a connection **3.** to make a request **4.** to put on, spread over, smear

❷ Which is the **best** definition of the word apply as it is used in this sentence?

When Scott's mother noticed his cut, she told him to apply a bandage to the wound.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

Read this Hawaiian fable that describes what one member of a sea star family discovers about her surroundings. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Sea's Treasures

Leslie Ann Hayashi

"I have more than you!" shouted a sea star, pointing to his huge pile of mussels.

"Yeah, but mine are bigger!" replied his younger brother.

"It's how many you have that counts!" the sea star urged.

Seeking quiet from her squabbling brothers, their little sister slipped away to the other side of the reef. There she discovered a beautiful bay. Brilliant shades of aquamarine, turquoise, and sapphire shimmered in the sunlight. Bright blue ocean waves capped with pearly foam rolled gently to the shore. Perched on an endless coral bed were many mussels. Sheltered and protected, the bay was a serene haven.

Each day the young sea star admired the many riches offered by the ocean. She delighted in watching the golden plovers dance near the breaking waves and curtsy to the sea foam. Schools of small fish flashed their silver color near the water's edge, followed by a chorus of "Good morning!"

Sometimes, a large green sea turtle would gently poke its head above the water and then, with a flap of its flipper, dive below the surface. Delighted, the sea star would wave back with one of her five friendly arms.

7 Beyond the reef, the ocean deepened into a dark, almost midnight-blue color, cloaking the marvels of the deep. *What breath-taking mysteries await there?* the sea star wondered.

"If only my foolish brothers could appreciate this. Then they would understand what really counts!" remarked the sea star wistfully. "You have to treasure whatever the sea offers."

As she dined on mussels, the sea star remembered to take only what she needed. After each meal, she never forgot to thank the ocean for generously parting with its riches.

From sunrise to sunset, the sea star cherished each gift from the ocean, whether it was the beauty of the moment or a tasty morsel.

"It doesn't matter how much you have or who has more. What matters is whether you're happy with what you have," the sea star murmured contentedly as she watched the sun set, pouring its golden light into the serene ocean.

- 3 Why does the little sister travel to the other side of the reef?
- A. to find her own mussels
 - B. to imagine her life at sea
 - C. to watch her brothers from a distance
 - D. to separate herself from her brothers

- 4 A synonym for the word squabbling is
- A. forcing.
 - B. pleading.
 - C. arguing.
 - D. terrifying.

- 5 In paragraph 7, the phrase “the ocean deepened into a dark, almost midnight-blue color” describes
- A. the color of mussels.
 - B. how the time changes.
 - C. how the water changes.
 - D. the path to the little sister’s home.

- 6 What is the **main** message of this fable?
- A. Young people have much to learn.
 - B. Take time to explore surroundings.
 - C. People should be satisfied with what they have.
 - D. It is important to use good manners every day.

Read the sentence below and then answer the question that follows.

“You have to treasure whatever the sea offers.”

- 7 Explain how the little sister demonstrates this statement is true. Use details from the fable to support your answer.

Read this article about how the Marvel Comic Book Company creates comic books. Then answer the questions that follow.

Funny Papers: Behind the Scenes of the Comics

Elaine Scott

- 1 At Marvel, as at all publishers, the story comes first. Creating the story is often a group effort by the editor, the writer, and the artist. Those three people meet together to discuss story ideas. Then the writer produces an outline of the story and sends it on to the artist, or penciler, as that person is called in the comic book business. The penciler draws a rough draft of each page of the comic book, based on the writer's outline. This rough draft is called a storyboard. As in a comic strip, the action takes place in panels and the dialogue is in balloons—but the balloons are left empty at this point.

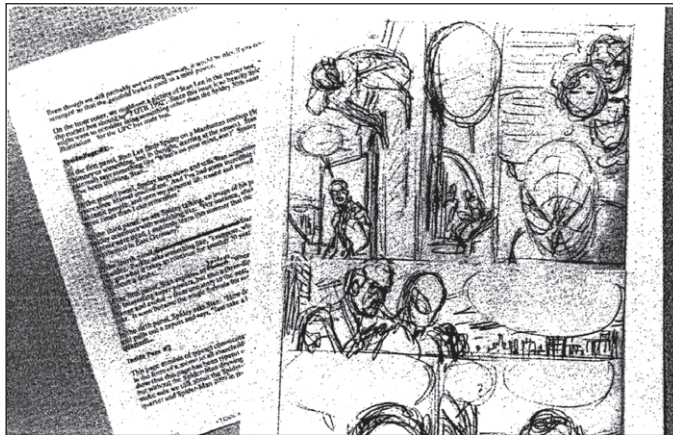


Figure 1

Comic books begin with a story outline and a rough pencil sketch.

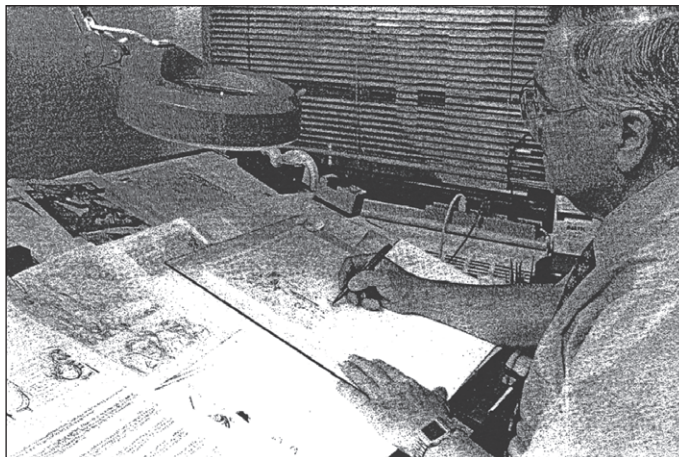


Figure 2

Pencilers do a final drawing of the rough sketch.

When everyone—the editor, the artist, and the writer—is satisfied with the storyboards for each page, the pages go back to the writer to decide on the exact words for the balloons. Next comes a rough pencil dummy to show the page layout; then a final pencil drawing of each page is made.

- 3 A photostat, or photographic copy, is made of that pencil drawing, and the pages are then ready for the next step—inking. Ink artists carefully go over the pencil artist's work, using permanent black ink; then the pages go to a letterer, who inserts the dialogue in the balloons.

Finally, the pages are ready to be colored, and there is a separate artist, called a colorer, to do that work. The art for the cover is painted, and the comic is ready to go to a production facility to be printed.



Figure 3

The final pencil drawing goes to an inker.

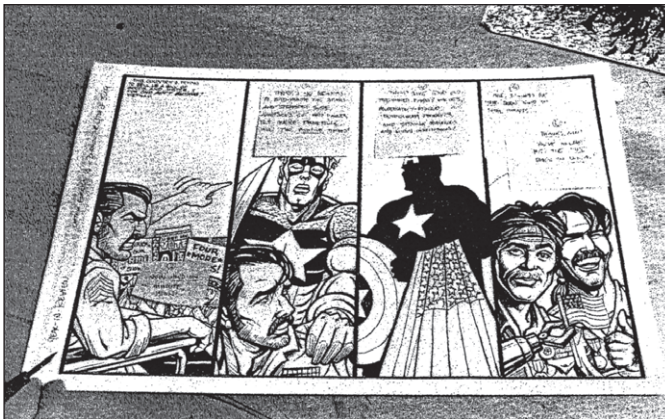


Figure 4

After the picture is inked, the story is lettered in balloons.

- 8 According to the first paragraph, what does the penciler do?
- A. writes down ideas for the comic book
 - B. constructs the cover of the comic book
 - C. tells the story through pictures
 - D. chooses the best words for the story
- 9 What happens **before** the balloons in a comic book are filled with words?
- A. The editor, artist, and writer agree on the storyboard.
 - B. The publisher asks the public's opinion of the story.
 - C. The editor, artist, and writer create another story.
 - D. The publisher examines the quality of the storyboard.
- 10 What is the job of an ink artist?
- A. to create additional drawings
 - B. to trace the artist's drawings
 - C. to check for errors in the artist's drawings
 - D. to think of ideas for the drawings
- 11 In paragraph 3, the word permanent means that the ink is
- A. dry.
 - B. clear.
 - C. lasting.
 - D. reflecting.
- 12 Explain how **Figure 1 and Figure 4** are different. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

The New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island Departments of Education wish to acknowledge and credit the following authors and publishers for use of their work in the reading portion of the *New England Common Assessment Program*—2008.

“The Sea’s Treasures” (p. 2) from *Fables from the Sea* by Leslie Ann Hayashi. Copyright © 2000 by University of Hawai‘i Press. Published by University of Hawai‘i Press.

Excerpt from *Funny Papers* (pp. 4–5) by Elaine Scott, photographs by Margaret Miller. Text copyright © 1993 by Elaine Scott. Photographs copyright © 1993 by Margaret Miller. Published by Morrow Junior Books.

Grade 6 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	LI	WV	LA	LA	LA	II	II	II	WV	II
GLE Code	5-3	5-2	5-4	5-3	5-6	5-5	5-5	5-7	5-7	5-7	5-3	5-7
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	2
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	C	D	D	C	C	C		C	A	B	C	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2008**

**Grade 6
Reading**

**NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING**

5.3.1 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings and relationships by identifying synonyms, antonyms, homonyms/homophones, or shades of meaning

1 An **antonym** for the word shield is

- A. flee.
- B. join.
- C. uncover.
- D. revolve.

5.2.1 Students identify the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary by using strategies to unlock meaning (e.g., knowledge of word structure, including prefixes/suffixes and base words; or context clues; or other resources, such as dictionaries, glossaries; or prior knowledge)

Use the definitions below to answer the question.

apply v **1.** to bring into action **2.** to have a connection **3.** to make a request **4.** to put on, spread over, smear

2 Which is the **best** definition of the word apply as it is used in this sentence?

When Scott's mother noticed his cut, she told him to apply a bandage to the wound.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

The Sea's Treasures Literary Text

5.4.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of elements of literary texts by identifying or describing character(s), setting, problem/solution, major events, or plot, as appropriate to text; or identifying any significant changes in character(s) over time

- 3 Why does the little sister travel to the other side of the reef?
- A. to find her own mussels
 - B. to imagine her life at sea
 - C. to watch her brothers from a distance
 - D. to separate herself from her brothers

5.3.1 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings and relationships by identifying synonyms, antonyms, homonyms/homophones, or shades of meaning

- 4 A synonym for the word squabbling is
- A. forcing.
 - B. pleading.
 - C. arguing.
 - D. terrifying.

The Sea's Treasures Literary Text

5.6.1 Analyze and interpret author's craft, citing evidence where appropriate by demonstrating knowledge of use of literary devices (i.e., imagery, exaggeration) to analyze literary works

- 5** In paragraph 7, the phrase “the ocean deepened into a dark, almost midnight-blue color” describes
- A. the color of mussels.
 - B. how the time changes.
 - C. how the water changes.
 - D. the path to the little sister's home.

5.5.5 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by identifying author's message or theme (implied or stated, as in a fable)

- 6** What is the **main** message of this fable?
- A. Young people have much to learn.
 - B. Take time to explore surroundings.
 - C. People should be satisfied with what they have.
 - D. It is important to use good manners every day.

The Sea's Treasures Literary Text

5.5.2 Analyze and interpret elements of literary texts, citing evidence where appropriate by Describing characters' physical characteristics, personality traits, or interactions; or providing examples of thoughts, words, or actions that reveal characters' personality traits or their changes over time

Read the sentence below and then answer the question that follows.

"You have to treasure whatever the sea offers."

- 7** Explain how the little sister demonstrates this statement is true. Use details from the fable to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how the little sister demonstrates this statement is true. Response includes relevant details from the fable.
3	Response provides an explanation of how the little sister demonstrates this statement is true. Response includes details from the fable.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how the little sister demonstrates this statement is true. Response includes limited details from the fable.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Response will likely explain that the little sister demonstrates behavior that shows she treasures what the sea offers.

- admiration for the colors in the bay, the waves, and the sea's protective nature
- admiration for all animal life
- interest in unknown parts of the ocean
- gratitude for food

Details from the fable should support these ideas.

SCORE POINT 4

7 The little sister is more forgiving and appreciates what she has already. Her brothers are fighting on who has more mussels. While their little sister is enjoying on what she has already. When she quietly moves away from her fighting brothers she sees a beautiful bay with shades of aquamarine, turquoise, and sapphire. She also saw bright blue waves from the ocean with pearly foam rolled gently to the shore. The little sister admired everything that the ocean offered. She loved watching golden plovers dancing. Then the little sister was wondering why wouldn't my brothers appreciate on what they already have. So she admires what the ocean offers and what it gives.

Response provides a thorough explanation of how the little sister demonstrates this statement is true. Response includes relevant details from the fable.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 3

7 The sea star sister demonstrates that statement in many special ways. For example, the sea provides the many mussels that the sea star eat. The sister sea star only takes what she needs, though, and is grateful for every bite she takes. She thanks the sea for the things it provides. The sea also provides the beautiful coral reef and the creatures that live in it. The sister sea star is grateful for all the things the sea gives to her!

Response provides an explanation of how the little sister demonstrates this statement is true.
Response includes details from the fable.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 2

- 7 Little sister demonstrated the statement is true by explaining every thing she saw in a clear view. Some of the things she saw are waves curtsey, golden plovers danceing, small fish flash their silver color and sometimes a turtle would poke his head out of the water, but then would dive back in. Those were some of the things she saw.

Response provides a partial explanation of how the little sister demonstrates this statement is true. Response includes limited details from the fable.

SCORE POINT 1

- 7 She demonstrates by thinking that everything she has is a gift. And what the sea offers you treasure what ever it is.

Response is vague or minimal.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 0

7

Sometimes a large green sea turtle
would gently poke its head above the water
and then with a flap of its flipper dive
below the surface.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

Funny Papers: Behind the Scenes of the Comics Informational Text

5.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

- 8** According to the first paragraph, what does the penciler do?
- A. writes down ideas for the comic book
 - B. constructs the cover of the comic book
 - C. tells the story through pictures
 - D. chooses the best words for the story

5.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

- 9** What happens **before** the balloons in a comic book are filled with words?
- A. The editor, artist, and writer agree on the storyboard.
 - B. The publisher asks the public's opinion of the story.
 - C. The editor, artist, and writer create another story.
 - D. The publisher examines the quality of the storyboard.

Funny Papers: Behind the Scenes of the Comics Informational Text

5.7.2 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by using information from the text to answer questions related to main/central ideas or key details

- 10 What is the job of an ink artist?
- A. to create additional drawings
 - B. to trace the artist's drawings
 - C. to check for errors in the artist's drawings
 - D. to think of ideas for the drawings

5.3.2 Shows breadth of vocabulary knowledge through demonstrating understanding of word meanings and relationships by selecting appropriate words or explaining the use of words in context, including content specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, or precise vocabulary

- 11 In paragraph 3, the word permanent means that the ink is
- A. dry.
 - B. clear.
 - C. lasting.
 - D. reflecting.

Funny Papers: Behind the Scenes of the Comics

Informational Text

5.7.1 Demonstrate initial understanding of informational texts (expository and practical texts) by obtaining information from text features (e.g., table of contents, glossary, index, transition words/phrases, bold or italicized text, headings, subheadings, graphic organizers, charts, graphs, or illustrations)

- 12** Explain how **Figure 1 and Figure 4** are different. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how Figure 1 and Figure 4 are different. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides an explanation of how Figure 1 and Figure 4 are different. Response includes information from the article.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how Figure 1 and Figure 4 are different. Response includes limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague or minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

Training Notes:

Response will likely explain that Figure 1 represents how the comic book appears in its initial stages and Figure 4 represents the final version of the comic book.

Response will likely include differences among text features, such as

- words,
- drawings,
- layout, and
- organization.

Information from the article should support these ideas.

SCORE POINT 4

12

The difference in figure 1 and figure 4 are a few things. In figure 1 first of all is the first step the writer and artist do after discussing story ideas. The writer produces an outline of the story and sends it to the artist. The artist draws a rough draft of each page of the comic book, based on the writer's outline. The rough draft is called a storyboard. But the balloons for the dialogues stay empty.

For the figure 4, it is the last step of the whole process. Now, after everything is done such as the sketch, the storyboard, the inking, and the separate artist, ~~the~~ paints the cover. Don't forget putting the dialogues in the balloon. The comic is ready to go to a production facility to be printed.

Response provides a thorough explanation of how Figure 1 **and** Figure 4 are different.
Response includes relevant information from the article.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 3

12

How Figure 1 and Figure 4 are different because figure 1 is just the beginning and it is the first step as being a rough draft. Figure 1 is outlined in pencil and figure 4 is outlined in permanent black ink. In figure 4 the balloons are filled in with words and in figure 1 the balloons are blank.

Response provides an explanation of how Figure 1 **and** Figure 4 are different.
Response includes information from the article.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 2

12

Figure 1 is 'just a rough draft with nothing colored and no word bubbles filled in. In figure 4 it is the final draft. All the word bubbles are filled in, every thing is filled in, and it is ready to go out to the public.

Response provides a partial explanation of how Figure 1 **and** Figure 4 are different.
Response includes limited information from the article.

SCORE POINT 1

12

The reason figure one and four is different is because figure one is a sketch and figure four is the final copy.

Response is vague or minimal.

NECAP 2008 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 6 READING

SCORE POINT 0

12

In figure 1 they start with
Spider man in figure 4 they end
with American eagle.

Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.